



## PSYCHOPATHS: The Predators Among Us STOPPING THE WORLD'S MOST DANGEROUS CRIMINAL

Psychologist Dr. Robert D. Hare, who the FBI refers to as the "world expert" on psychopaths, spoke at the Michigan State Police Training Academy on October 22, 2003. According to Dr. Hare, "Psychopaths are social predators, and we are the prey." The devastating features of a psychopath are a callous disregard for the rights of others and a propensity for predatory and violent behavior.

Too many people hold the idea that psychopaths are all unkempt looking rapists and killers. The disorder is also common among drug dealers; spouse and child abusers; swindlers and con men; high-pressure salesmen and stock promoters; gang members; corrupt politicians and tyrannical dictators; unethical CEOs, lawyers and doctors; terrorists and cult leaders.

### Serial Predators

In the summer of 1978, in East Lansing, Michigan, police arrested a baby faced criminal justice student and youth minister named Donald Gene Miller, who had been seen running from the house where he had just raped and nearly strangled a 14-year-old girl, and stabbed her 13-year-old brother. Miller was also a suspect in the disappearance of four area women, beginning with his fiancée, who vanished on the first day of 1977 after spending New Year's Eve with him.

The Ingham County prosecutor who oversaw the case, Peter D. Houk, remembers Miller as a wolf in sheep's clothing, a Doctor Jeckyll



and Mister Hyde personality: "Cunning...Deceptive...He did not look physically threatening or dangerous; anything but." He remained calm and composed during the long investigation; "so composed that he went over to one victim's house on the morning after the murder and offered to help search for her." Twenty years later, the former prosecutor was sure that Miller would still be dangerous if he were freed: "I was positive to a moral certainty that he would kill again."

Convicted murderer Donald Gene Miller is a representative of a small, identifiable, and exceptionally dangerous group of psychopaths that are lethally violent criminals. They are deliberate, sadistic, and often intelligent. Their crimes tend to be carried out in a ritualistic manner, have a strong sexual component, and often involve rape or torture.

Their violence and cruelty typically escalate over time, driven by fantasies that feed their predatory nature. As

the mother of Donald Miller's first victim put it, "they are evil."

### Social Parasites

Not all psychopaths torture and murder, sometimes they leave you destitute after taking your savings and devastating your life. Female offenders have the same psychopathy rate as men (although they are less violent), and there are no differences between racial or ethnic groups. Without conscience, psychopaths pursue, charm, manipulate and exploit others for their own desires.

Psychopaths do not respond to psychological treatment, but they are extremely good at pretending to be "cured" if it is to their advantage. They will often claim to have "found God." Though mentally abnormal, they are not legally insane. Just as Satan has been depicted, they understand their misbehavior, know the difference between right and wrong, and can choose the best time to act upon their evil desires - they are therefore criminally responsible for their acts. As many as 15% to 20% of prisoners are psychopaths, indicating that police are tracking psychopaths in many of their most serious criminal investigations.

### Identifying The Psychopath

Psychopaths have several overlapping characteristics. From a public

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safety standpoint, they commit their crimes repeatedly, and obtain personal gratification in the process. At times, their pleasure comes from the prolonged suffering of the victim. Psychopaths are predators. Predation is not a legal term, but denotes an intentional act of selecting, pursuing, and then controlling a person (through force or otherwise), in order to inflict harm on that person for the gain and pleasure of the predator. Psychopaths are likely to commit a wide variety of offenses, and they will commit 7 to 8 times more crimes than other criminal types.

As sexual predators, whether they kill or not, psychopaths will “escalate” their activities over the course of their careers. Typically, they will start with violent sexual fantasies and progress to acting out their imagined scenes. The psychopathic predators may find sexual gratification in activities that most people would consider nonsexual, such as the infliction of pain, mutilation, or post-mortem display of the body and the collection of trophies. These acts may be symbolic and designed to make an impact on others, or for the predators’ perverse pleasure and enjoyment, or both. In some cases, there will be no evidence of “normal” sexual arousal such as erection and ejaculation.

People who spend any amount of time with psychopaths soon realize they can be defined by a cluster of antisocial attributes. Typically, psychopaths are egocentric, arrogant, callous, domineering, superficial, deceptive, and manipulative. They lack realistic long-term goals, expecting grandiose achievements without preparation or work. They are unable to form strong emotional bonds with others, and lack anything approaching a normal capacity for empathy, guilt, remorse, or deep-seated emotions. They typically lead a socially deviant lifestyle that includes irresponsible and impulsive behavior, and they have a tendency to ignore or violate social and moral conventions and standards. Other criminal and antisocial personality disorders can have some of these attributes as tendencies, but it is the overwhelming extent and combination of these features that indicate psychopathy.

## Apprehending The Psychopath

Psychopaths are skilled at covering their tracks, and become more so with each crime. Recent neuro-brain imaging research indicates their brain appears to be emotionally unconnected, or without a conscience. The psychopath’s criminal edge is that they stay “emotionally cool” while committing atrocious crimes. While often intelligent, they are not perfect criminals, and their uncontrollable arrogance is the weakness that will enable their apprehension.

Because of their arrogance, psychopaths will try to take over interviews and interrogations. A clever detective will use this against the psychopath. A psychopath will go off track a lot, creating a lot of contradictions by both admitting and denying – sometimes in the same sentence. They throw about big words and jargon – but inappropri-

ately; they don’t really understand the abstract or emotional meaning of many words, and they will sound irrational and absurd if you listen carefully.

Psychopaths take pleasure in trying to embarrass or outsmart police and want to rub it in, but they anger easily if slighted and will react impulsively – a weakness that police can anticipate and take advantage of. If you don’t see an “authentic” emotional response to a moral plea, then a detective might try to elicit an egocentric response to a challenging remark, like: “Whoever did this will be famous...but ‘you’ are not bright enough to have done something this complicated.”

Psychopaths wear a mask of sanity. When it comes to normal emotions, they know the words but not the music. The psychopath will mimic shock and disgust, but not very well. Police interrogators note that psychopaths have a “predatory stare”

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## Observations of a Police Detective

### EXCERPTS FROM “CATCHING SERIAL KILLERS”

by D/Lt. Earl James

- Serial predators are actors, and many serial criminals will pretend to be police, ministers, millionaires, etc., in order to manipulate their prey. They don’t necessarily look like monsters; that part is on the inside.
- It is a myth that serial predators always work alone. Sometimes they will form a team with another predator, or use a female accomplice to aid in their predation.
- Serial predators will usually give very articulate (but false) alibis. Suspect alibis must be thoroughly checked out whenever possible. If the suspect turns out to be lying, ask that he take a polygraph so he can be interrogated at length.
- Serial predators are often interviewed by police several times and released because they are such good liars. But if police are alert for eccentricities and oddities, they will often find a web of lies and contradictions. It is a myth that serial predators give clues on purpose so they can be caught. It’s just that they are so arrogant that they lie recklessly, thinking that police are too dumb or too lazy to follow-up on their alibi. It is essential that skilled interrogators be used to interview these predators, and that all leads be followed.
- Serial predators have a natural propensity for manipulating and using people to accomplish their goals, so it is not unusual for them to use cars, guns, homes, etc., belonging to relatives or friends to carry out their crimes.
- Because serial predators are good at manipulating people – friends and family will sometimes outright lie in order to help protect the suspect, who they are sure “could never have committed such a crime.” This points to the necessity of not accepting at face value what witnesses are saying until one probes further.

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or “empty eyes,” because the eyes of psychopaths are always empty no matter what facial emotion they are trying to display.

Obviously, psychopaths won't show the same responses common in other criminal types. But contrary to popular misconception, the polygraph will still work on a psychopath – only differently. Most people respond to polygraphs because lies create an emotional reaction. Psychopaths don't have emotional based responses to lying, but they show an “orientation response” when they lie because they focus on their ability to beat the machine.

The Reid School of Interview and Interrogation offers these additional suggestions: Psychopaths are practiced liars, so if the suspect's behavior appears truthful, but the facts indicate deception, dig deeper for more evidence – you may be dealing with a psychopath. Psychopaths are proud of their skills at manipulation, and may even try to con-the-cop. They may begin an interrogation by asking the officer for favors (use the phone, a drink, etc.), in order to soften up the investigator.

Psychopaths won't respond to guilt themes, but they may respond to an ego theme where they can brag about past acts of dishonesty – this is a good place to start. Tripping up a psychopath will usually require multiple interrogations, so always provide a pretense for future interviews. When the investigation is getting close, tell the psychopath: “The evidence is so complete that only a ‘fool’ would deny committing this crime.” Now you're using the psychopath's ego against itself.

## Conclusion

A 1992 FBI report estimated that 44% of murdered police officers were killed by psychopaths. Understanding these predators is essential to apprehending them, and sentencing them appropriately. For additional information, Dr. Robert Hare highly recommends police read “Catching Serial Killers,” by retired MSP Detective Earl James, an excellent learning tool for all investigations, not just serial murders.

## Observations of a Police Detective (Continued from Page 2)

- Serial predators wander and travel extensively in their criminal pursuits. The suspect's vehicle should always be thoroughly examined for trace evidence, as well as the suspect's clothing and shoes.
- The suspect's quarters should always be searched for weapons, tools, trace evidence, as well as “trophies” related to the crime – searching officers should keep an open mind. If you discover a suspicious item not named in the warrant, it is best to send an officer back to get an amended warrant.
- Serial predators are erratic and unpredictable. They don't always follow the same method of operation. They often drive erratically as well, leading surveillance officers into believing the suspect knows he's being tailed when he does not.
- Serial predators will often make revelations about their attitudes and thought processes, which to a normal person will sound absurd. One serial murderer was fascinated with the philosophy of Nietzsche, and thought the Ten Commandments were stupid. Each has their own beliefs and rationalizations for the crimes they commit. The truth is, they cannot control or understand their own urges to commit brutal acts, which they must commit more and more frequently to obtain relief.
- One of the biggest mistakes detectives have made is not to involve the forensic lab specialists soon enough. In almost all instances, evidence technicians and laboratory specialists should handle the scene of a serious crime. Probably more crime scenes are destroyed by police than by civilians.
- If the crime scene is outdoors, and it appears that weather could destroy it prior to the evidence technician's arrival, steps should be taken to protect the evidence with a box or a clean (unused) plastic drop cloth.
- If there is even a possibility that a missing person is the victim of foul play, investigators should immediately take steps to procure their books, papers, and anything from which their fingerprints (and DNA) can be obtained, also hair samples, dental records, eye glass prescription, and anything else that might be helpful for identification.
- Time and time again, police miss valuable opportunities by delaying to put a kidnapped girl into the computer and broadcasting the information to road patrols, simply because a twenty-four hour time period had not elapsed.
- In a task force type setting, it is essential to have a quality control procedure for handling tips. When there are an overwhelming number of tips, unfortunately, officers begin to view all tips as blind alleys. Consequently, all tips should be re-reviewed at least every fifteen days to determine whether there is any new information that could change their status.
- Numerous leads are given to the press by exuberant police officers trying to seize the glory of the investigation, which at the least ruins surveillance opportunities, but in worse cases, tips off the suspect. There have also been occasions where evidence should have been made public and was not. This points to the need to have strict coordination between agencies and one designated spokesperson.
- Whether police administrators like it or not, police detectives should meet regularly for coffee. Police detectives from various local departments are like their own small department; meeting together helps them solve numerous cases.

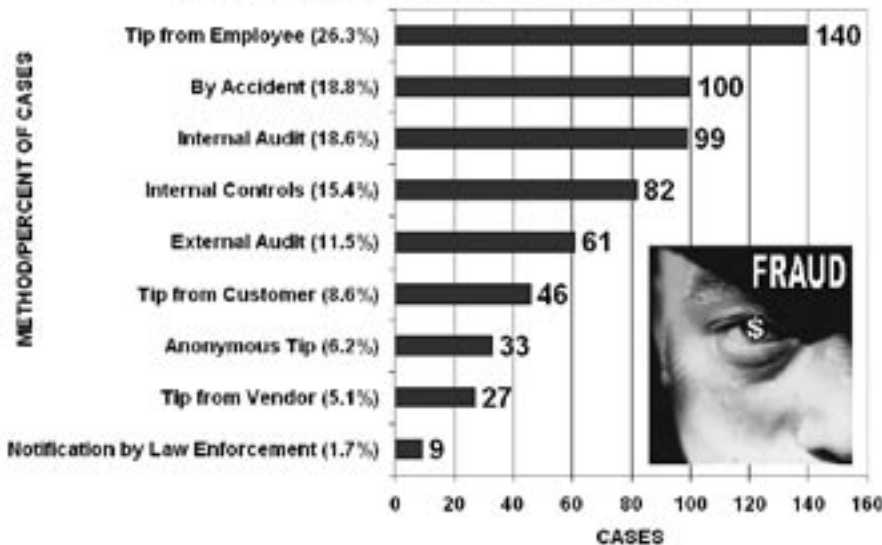
Earl James is currently working on a revised second edition of his book, which should be out shortly. For more information, contact the Michigan State Police Violent Crime Unit, at 517-336-6577.



# The Policing of White-Collar Crime

## INITIAL DETECTION OF OCCUPATIONAL FRAUD

[Source: Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, www.acfe.com/flash]



The Association of Certified Fraud Examiners states that most occupational fraud schemes are uncovered accidentally by fellow employees.

"Fri, Oct 18, 2002. Livingston County Circuit Court Judge Daniel Burruss socked it to a Hartland Township home builder whom prosecutors said used his special knowledge of construction loans to illegally obtain millions of dollars in loans and in the process caused financial ruin and heartaches for many people. According to a Michigan State Police investigation, the suspect routinely forged a fake building department permit showing approval for a project. The fraudulent documents were submitted to lending institutions to receive loans for homes that were never built."

"January 1, 2003. The Capital Area United Way is trying to recover almost \$1 million it says its former finance chief stole over the past two years. Police say she deposited donated money into her own accounts and intercepted the canceled checks when they returned to the United Way. The checks, many of which exceeded \$9,000, were written off as uncollected pledges and never entered the charity's accounting system. The new finance chief realized something was amiss when records for incoming mail indicated three checks were missing for December."

Police are spending more and more time investigating fraud. According to the Wells Report, published by the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, occupational fraud has increased by \$200 billion since 1996 to a total of \$600 billion in losses as of 2002. The perpetrators of occupational fraud (sometimes referred to as white-collar crime), can vary from the stock-person to the CEO.

Joseph Wells is a seasoned FBI agent and white-collar criminologist. He says that every case of fraud contains three basic elements that make up what he calls a Fraud Triangle: What seems to be consistent is that criminals, even white collar ones, can't give up short-term rewards for long-term goals; they



feel an uncontrollable "Temptation" or pressure. "Opportunity" is governed by a person's position in a company—an executive is able to cook the books for billions, but a bookkeeper at a little shop is also in a prime position to commit a crime. Then the employee begins to "Rationalize" — A corrupt CEO might think to himself, "I built this company, I deserve this!" A corrupt stock-person might think, "All the CEOs are getting away with millions, where's my share?" And even a church treasurer finds a way to rationalize, "I'm just borrowing to pay my credit cards, I'll eventually pay it back."

Research shows that while audits help prevent corruption, most fraud schemes are uncovered accidentally by fellow employees. It usually takes an insider or victim to recognize the subtle (and even not-so-subtle) clues that corruption is afoot, as in the case of Cynthia Cooper of Worldcom, Sherron Watkins of Enron, and Coleen Rowley of the FBI — who had the cour-



age to police their own organizations. Here are some indicators that should initiate an audit or further investigation:

**Accounting irregularities.** In the broadest terms, the fundamental red flag of fraud is a variation from the norm, something just doesn't seem

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right. Fraud will usually show up somewhere in the books or records, maybe a couple of numbers that just don't add up. Or maybe gross profits unexpectedly fall (because an employee is stealing stock from the supply room). Or, an accountant notices payments coming in, but the profits don't show up in the books for tax purposes.

**A sudden reversal of fortune for no explainable reason.** This may indicate the exploitation of assets has suddenly caught up with the business and the perpetrator can no longer hide it. A sudden change in accountants or auditors may be an attempt by the financial officer or boss to hide their wrongdoing.

**Customer complaints.** Informal contacts with suppliers and customers may reveal unusual problems that may be related to fraud, such as late payments to creditors, demands for immediate payment by customers, improper receipting, changes in quality, etc.

**Being unusually inquisitive about the company's payment system.** If someone is thinking about committing fraud within the organization, they will try to find the checks-and-balances in the system so they can defeat them.

**Rule-breakers.** Breaking rules includes ignoring generally accepted accounting principles when preparing the company's financial statements and routinely violating the organization's own written set of internal controls.

**Big spenders.** Big spending has led to the discovery of countless fraudsters. Some of the stories border on the absurd: A crooked banker who had the company jet fly to France regularly to bring back chefs to cook special dinners for him and his guests; a clerk for an insurance company that frequently took her co-workers to lunch in a limo; a mid-level supervisor who bought a multi-million dollar mansion adjacent to a golf course. Use of expensive illicit drugs is another indicator.

**People with financial problems.** Just like big spenders, people with financial problems may be more motivated

to commit occupational fraud. While most of us with money woes do not steal, some do. In one case for example, two employees worked in the same office. One of the workers could ill-conceal the fact that she was receiving constant telephone calls from creditors demanding money. But one day, the calls simply stopped. Later, the co-worker discovered why: She saw her colleague steal a company check and put it in her purse. Even though it was difficult to do, the co-worker



turned her friend in. Police are also seeing an increase in gamblers committing fraud to pay bills after they've lost their paycheck at the casino.

**People working inexplicably long hours.** Some people work long hours because they're workaholics, but those intending to commit fraud may find it easier to do so when nobody is around. They may stay late or return to work after hours, giving the impression they're working hard – but do they have access to finances?

**Those who avoid having other staff members assist or relieve them.** Those committing fraud won't take chances having someone discover their method of operation, so they will go to great lengths to keep other employees from checking over their work, like resisting the use of sick or annual leave.

**Resigning or transferring suddenly.** If the fraud scheme is starting to unravel, if other employees are starting to notice irregularities, or if the perpetrator is just getting nervous, they may abruptly leave their position in

hopes of disconnecting themselves from their crime. Or, the perpetrator of fraud, if a manager, may chase out any employee who's seems too sharp or honest.

**A computer virus mysteriously wipes out records.** This may be a purposeful attempt to hide a fraud. However, immediate attention by a police computer specialist may be able retrieve lost evidence.

*"A manufacturer and distributor of electronic parts failed to implement adequate stock controls and audit procedures. As a consequence, a senior executive of the shop was able to remove stock (which he then sold). The losses over a ten year period exceeded \$1 million."*

Most fraud is financial, but keep in mind that achieving or protecting "power" is also a motive for fraud (which usually has financial implications). The most

obvious objective in a fraud investigation is to catch the perpetrator. But sometimes, in order to accomplish this, the most urgent priority is to get an injunction to prevent the destruction of recorded evidence, or to freeze assets so the proceeds of fraud are not spirited away. In a fraud investigation, speed is an asset, but thoroughness is still a bigger asset.

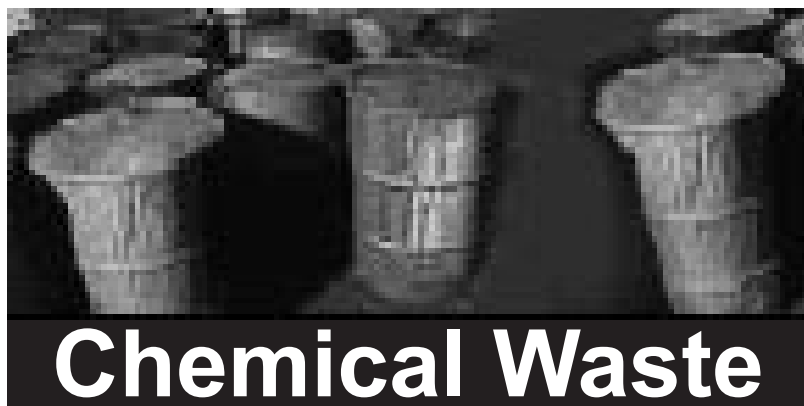
For complicated or inter-state cases, the FBI recently created a "Corporate Fraud Hotline" as part of the national Corporate Fraud Initiative.

#### **FBI's New Corporate Fraud Hotline 888-622-0117**

The FBI expects the Corporate Fraud Hotline to generate four or five new corporate fraud cases each month. The hotline will be manned by FBI analysts, Monday through Friday, at FBI Headquarters during normal business hours, 9 A.M. to 5 P.M.



# “Toxic Cops” — DEQ’s Pollution Investigators



## Chemical Waste

An article by Jeff Kart, of the Bay City Times, recently highlighted the work of Michigan’s Department of Environment Quality (DEQ), Office of Criminal Investigations (OCI). OCI is a statewide force of certified law enforcement officers specializing in environmental law. Officially called Environmental Conservation Officers (ECO’s), these investigators focus their enforcement efforts on environmental protection cases that often result in criminal charges. ECO’s originated in the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in 1979 and transferred to the DEQ in 1995, but the public and many police agencies don’t even know they are available to help investigate toxic crimes. Their low-profile status makes it easy to do surveillance, but hard to increase timely and actionable complaints. Hence, they initiated an outreach program in 1999, and continue to expand it annually.

OCI investigators look like a regular detective, wearing business suits and driving nondescript cars. They are also armed like any other police officer. Most of the OCI investigators come from traditional policing backgrounds, and then are trained for this toxic specialty. One recent investigation involves suspects burying hundreds of barrels of toxic waste on property in northern Michigan. These specially trained criminal investigators routinely conduct investigations of complaints involving flagrant violations of the Natural Resources Environmental Protection Act (NREPA). This would involve the mishandling/mismanagement of hazardous waste, illegal discharge/disposal of chemical waste into our precious groundwater and other waters of the state, destruction of wetlands, illegal disposal of solid waste and to a lesser degree, violations involving air pollution.

Money is the typical motivation behind most environmental crimes. Proper storage, treatment and disposal of polluted substances can be expensive – disposing of one 55-gallon drum of hazardous waste can cost up to \$1,500, for instance. A common “con” involves a suspect collecting fees for hazardous waste disposal, but then they secretly “dump” the waste in order to increase their profit. Other pollution cases are more complicated, and take an extensive amount of time prior to the issuance of criminal charges.

The DEQ also has a toll-free tip line the public can call to report Pollution Emergencies 1-800-292-4706. The

OCI is directed by a leadership team consisting of Milton Scales, Chief (Lansing), and his field supervisors – Lt. Greg Eagle (Bay City 989-686-8025) Eastern Unit, and Lt. Tom Mittner (Grand Rapids 616-356-0253) Western Unit.

One of OCI’s objectives is to educate police officers so they can increase the enforcement of environmental laws within their own communities – the toxic cops will be available to assist. So next time you think you have a toxic crime on your hands, and you need assistance with the investigation and prosecution, call the OCI officer closest to you:

OCI Investigator	DEQ Office	Telephone
D/Sgt. Corneil Askew	Livonia	734-953-1445
D/Sgt. Thomas Ayres	Lansing	517-241-2037
D/Sgt. Angela Brown	Livonia	734-953-1468
D/Sgt. Juris Didrichsons	Grand Rapids	Special Investigations
Lt. Gregory Eagle - Supervisor	Bay City - East Unit	989-686-8025
D/Sgt. Janet Erlandson	Grand Rapids	616-356-0029
D/Sgt. Sondra Gardner	Detroit	313-456-4675
Lt. Tom Mittner - Supervisor	Grand Rapids –West Unit	616-356-0253
D/Sgt. Kenneth Montgomery	Detroit	313-456-4676
D/Sgt. Charles Robinson	Livonia	Special Investigations
D/Sgt. Timothy Shuker	Gwinn	906-226-1304
D/Sgt. Tina Straw	Kalamazoo	616-567-3505
D/Sgt. Richard Thompson	Bay City	989-686-8025
D/Sgt. Thomas Wassa	Bay City	989-686-8025
D/Sgt. Thomas Wingate	Cadillac	231-775-3960
D/Sgt. Jennifer Wolf	Lansing	517-241-2041
D/Sgt. Jennifer Wolf	Jackson (Vacant)	517-780-7483
D/Sgt. Vincent Woods	Gaylord	989-705-3449